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Round the Soviet Union

● THE FIRST YEAR OF THE 1981-85 FIVE-YEAR PLAN CONCLUDES WITH AN INDUSTRIAL GROWTH OF 3.4 PER CENT, WHICH AMOUNTS TO 21,000 MILLION ROUBLES' WORTH OF FUELS, ENERGY, EQUIPMENT, MACHINES AND CONSUMER GOODS.

● TEN MILLION SOVIET PEOPLE RECEIVED IMPROVED HOUSING IN 1981.

● THE VENERA-13 AND VENERA-14 OUTER SPACE PROBES CONTINUE THEIR FLIGHT. In the course of their mission they study various processes occurring in space.

● "ASHKHABAD, ITS PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE" IS AN EXHIBITION, WHICH ASHKHABAD HAS ARRANGED TO MARK ITS CENTENNIAL. Back in the early 20th century the whole town formed a maze of mud-brick huts. Now the town contains 300,000 people, and is a comfortable place to live in, located on the edge of the Karakum Desert.

POLAND RETURNS TO NORMAL

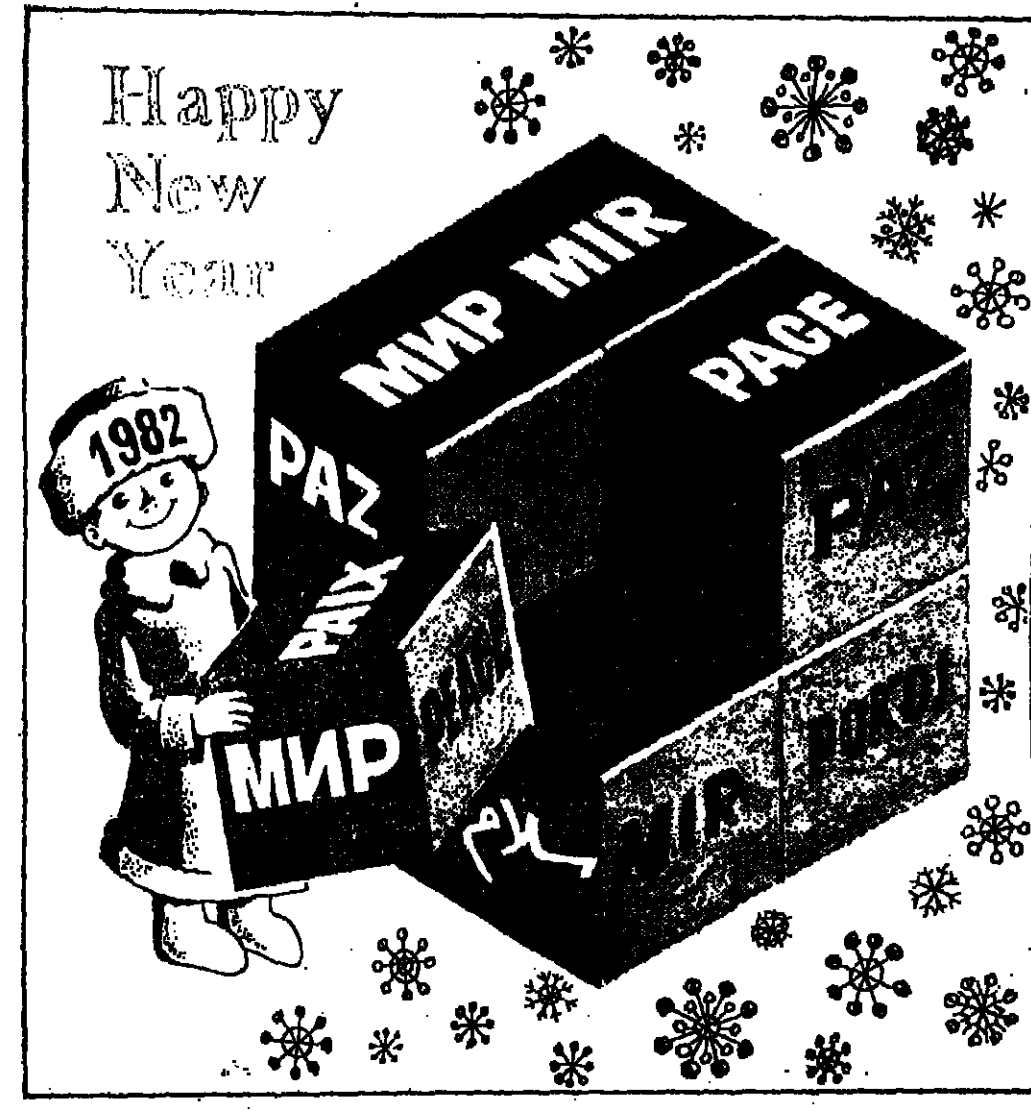
Warsaw. PAP reports that many Polish workers volunteered to work during the Christmas holidays. Cycle production works such as the country's largest Lenin Iron-and-steel combine in Nowa Huta are back in normal operation, as well as railways, motor transport, and municipal services.

According to press reports, the central anti-speculation committee discussed the problems arising from martial law, and of combating black market activities. Provincial and local anti-speculation commissions operate throughout Poland. The chief civil militia commandant's office has initiated the preliminary investigations into 427 speculation cases, and these were launched between December 13 and 24.

FACTS and EVENTS

● Nine fire brigades in Miami, Florida, took nearly three hours fighting a fire aboard the world's largest liner "Norway". The fire started in the engine room, causing severe damage. It was fortunate that the 1,550 passengers were sightseeing ashore at the time.

● 500,000 Americans became jobless since last July. "The Economist" magazine forecasts that unemployment will reach 10,000,000 in America next year.



SECOND NUCLEAR UNIT AT ROVNO

The Rovno nuclear project in the Ukraine has commissioned its second power unit seven months ahead of schedule.

The first unit, which was put into operation a year ago, has already generated nearly 2,000 million kilowatt-hours of electricity. The Rovno project is expected to produce several more thousand million kilowatt-hours of electricity before the end of the year after the second and the third unit become fully operational.

ROAD BUILT UNDER DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES

A reliable road leading to the drilling installations, pumping stations, and shift workers' settlements has been built for use by oil workers from the Khelmogorod Association in the Tyumen Region. They received this road as a New Year present from Latvian road-builders, who had commissioned the first phase of the road linking the new oil and gas field with the mainland.

The Latvian builders who arrived in Siberia at the end of last year, soon felt at home. They brought specially designed road-building machines and materials transported by train over many kilometres in a very short time, building their settlement in inhospitable forest tundra.

A few days ago, "Izvestia" at the USSR Exhibition of Economic Achievements in Moscow announced the beginning of the "Russian Winter" festival. From then until the beginning of March, every Sunday, Muscovites and visitors may participate in these festivities enjoying a ride in brightly decorated troikas and see tireless dancers and singers. In Russia, winter festivities

'RUSSIAN WINTER' FESTIVAL

always commenced upon Christmas Day, when all the people flooded into the streets to celebrate. Delicious foods were cooked and carol-singers travelled from house to house wishing everyone a merry

Christmas. In ancient times, these rites were regarded as magic. They glorified people living in the countryside, wishing well-being to their families and fertility to their soil. Today, this festival presents

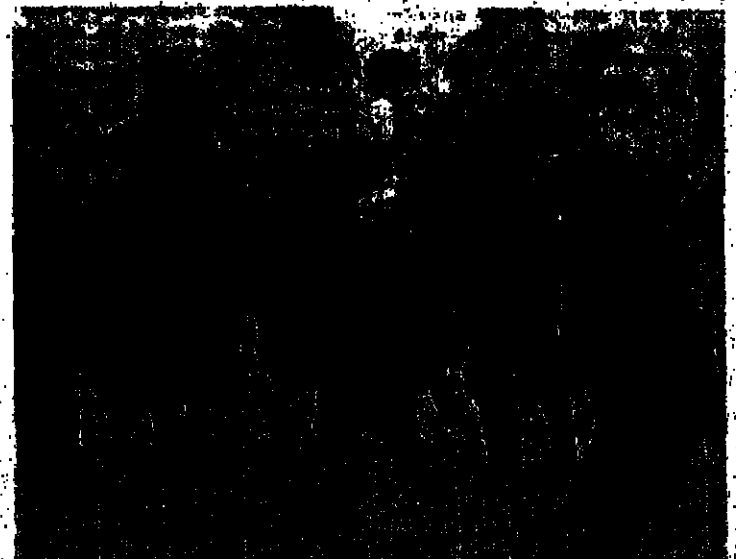
more of theatrical entertainment in which the spectators can take part. It is enjoyed by everyone, including Muscovites and their guests from many far away cities and countries. For the festival offers a diverse programme. People come for a ride on the snowy sleds, runs, clappers, balloons, pancakes and hot tea from samovars are sold from girls wearing kokoshniks sparkling with tinsel.



Troika rides are indispensable from genuine Russian merry-making.



The first to reach the top will be awarded.



Mineral water is a welcome character of the Russian Winter Festival.

THE WORLD

WESTERN EUROPE COOLY RECEIVES SANCTIONS AGAINST POLAND

Washington. West European countries have reacted coolly to the discriminatory measures taken by President Ronald Reagan against Poland, notes the American CBS television network. The FRG has refused outright to impose any sanctions against Poland, while Britain, France and Italy have no wish to cooperate with the Americans. These countries, as well as Sweden and Denmark regard the situation in Poland as an entirely domestic affair.

Ottawa. Spokesmen for the Canadian Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans and the Ministry of Transport, state that Polish fishing vessels may continue working in Canadian waters, and Polish LOT airlines may continue flights to Canada. A spokesman for a government corporation promoting exports has announced that his company intends backing further trade with Poland and that it will consider any Polish application for increased financial aid.

INDIAN SEPARATISTS GAIN FOREIGN SUPPORT

Delhi. Punjab separatist leaders residing in Canada, the USA and Britain and working to establish an "Independent Khalistan state" in the Indian Punjab state are boosting these subversive activities disrupting India's unity. According to the "Link" weekly, they hold close ties with the US special services and established, with active CIA assistance, the so-called con-

sulate of the state of Khalistan in Vancouver, Canada. The leaders of the Sikh extremists have established close contacts with US CIA agents operating in countries bordering on India. "Hindustan Times" reports there are several secret terrorist separatist groupings operating now within the Punjab.

NICARAGUA PROTESTS AGAINST HONDURAS

Managua. Nicaragua formally protested to Honduras over the free activities of thousands of Somoza troops, who fled to Honduras and are committing crimes against the Nicaraguan revolution, backed by the Honduran military. The Nicaraguan note charges, that the Somozistas have markedly intensified their activity since August 29, crossing the frontiers and terrorizing Indian settlements in the north of the Zelaya department. The protest continues that in the past four

weeks alone, 12 Nicaraguans were murdered and another 15 are missing. There is every reason to believe that the missing persons were forcibly taken to Honduras. The note further stresses there is information that indicates the abducted persons were severely tortured and later executed. The Nicaraguan government has demanded that the Honduras authorities launch an immediate inquiry into this crime and duly punish the culprits.



Drawing by Igor Smirnov

AMERICAN AIR BASES IN TURKEY MODERNIZED

Ankara. Military representatives from the United States and Turkey are negotiating the expansion and modernization of a number of air bases situated on Turkish soil and "leased" by the two countries. Newspapers note that these bases are to improve the US Air Force capability over large areas on the south-eastern NATO flank.

Under a previous agreement, an AWACS system for electronic air surveillance will be sited in the country in 1982-1985. Eighteen American AWACS planes will be stationed at the large air base in the province of Konya. The base is under modernization to provide for at least two or three planes to be constantly in the air.

Spanish trade unions demand more jobs

Madrid. The Federal Council of the Spanish Union Confederation of the Spanish Workers' Commissions demanded that the government present a detailed investment programme creating new jobs. Workers' Commissions Secretary-General Marcelino Camacho addressing a Federal council meeting stressed the importance for the Spanish working class of the national agreement on employment signed last summer by the administration, trade unions and employers.

M. Camacho sharply attacked the Spanish confederation of employers' organizations who are blocking this agreement thus preventing solutions for economic problems and reviews of labour agreements within factories.

EGYPT RELEASES DETAINEES

Cairo. Egyptian leadership has taken steps to bring the country's situation back to normal. The procurator's office has issued a decree to release 39 people arrested since last September following Sadat's orders. They form members of the opposition and Moslem communities, including Omar al-Telmeani, the leader of the Moslem Brothers organization which opposes the Camp David agreements.

Previously, 48 victims of Sadat's reprisals were given their freedom. Early in January, it is planned to release several more groups of detainees. The Cairo newspapers claim that these decisions are in accordance with instruction from President H. Mubarak.

U.S. demands on Japanese military forces

Washington. The US Defense Secretary, Weinberger, has demanded that Japan should increase its military potential to enable its "defense forces" to carry out independent combat operations not only inside Japan, but also within a thousand miles off its shores. This interview was televised in Japan and presents the toughest public statement yet sounded by the Reagan administration demanding that Japan should share more in the American burden of military expenditure.

AMERICANS TAKE OVER MICRONESIA

Sydney. The taking over of Micronesia in the Pacific by the United States is entering its final stages. Reports from the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau and other American trust territories in the Pacific state that the negotiations over their so-called free association with the United States are nearing completion.

According to the "Pacific Islands Monthly", the discussion mainly deals with military concerns. Envoys from Washington are seeking a free reign for the United States not only during the next 15 years while agreements are concluded between each territory, but dually, but probably extending over a far greater period of time. In short, they intend

THE WORLD



Peace marches, weeks of actions for disarmament, political seminars and other functions for a nuclear-free Europe and against the nuclear arms race have become a significant factor in the political life of Finland. In the photo: peace marchers in the streets of Finnish towns.

FACTS AND EVENTS

© The Swiss department of justice and police claims that five tonnes of hashish were confiscated in a drive against drug pushers in the past three years.

© India and the United Arab Emirates have agreed on a three-year project for laying an underwater communication cable linking the two nations.

PEOPLE

In the past 15 years, political assassinations happened in Guatemala at the rate of one every five hours, writes the Spanish "El Pais".

In September last year Interior Ministry spokesman E. Barasona fled the country to Panama and spoke at length there on the terror system. He charged that President General Lukas Garcia was directly in charge of the "death squadrons" and that police chief Chupin had a death list of political and trade union leaders.

Finland astronomers, who discovered one of the Sun's smallest satellites, now carrying the number 1,740, have named it after their celebrated compatriot physicist Paavo Nurmi.

BIGGEST

ROBBERY IN LA

In Los Angeles, rare works of art and collections of semi-precious stones worth 4.5 million dollars, have been stolen from the house of a wealthy Taiwanese businessman in a robbery which American newspapers call the biggest in the history of the city.

AMERICAN COURT TO DECIDE ON ORIGIN OF MAN

Washington. France-Press-TASS. Darwin's theory on the origin of species and the Bible are the two points in contention at a trial in the American city of Little Rock, Arkansas. There are 60 scholars, theologians and philosophers testifying as witnesses to answer the question concerning mankind's origins: Adam and Eve, or the ape. The trial has been initiated by the American Civil Liberties Union, whose members protest against the new school curriculum under which the biblical creation

Science and technology

PROTOTYPE FUSION REACTOR MOOTED

A nearly radiationless nuclear reactor that was a dream for the twenty-second century could be tested with today's technology, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor has suggested.

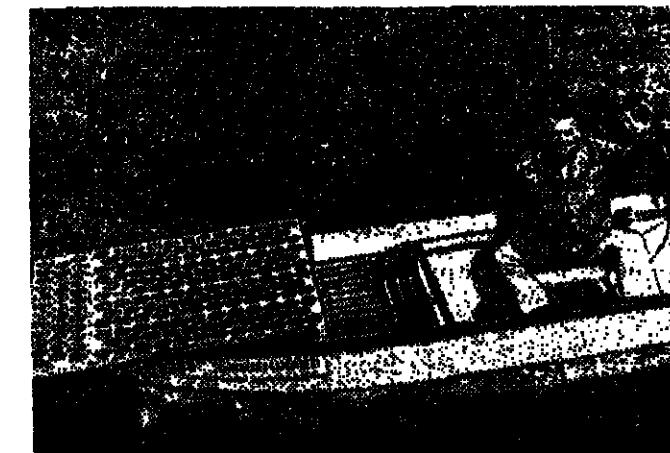
Professor Bruno Coppi believes that a fusion reactor using deuterium and helium-three could be attempted now, and that it would produce 10 to 50 times less neutron radiation than the deuterium-tritium reactors at present conceived.

In either case, however, it would be a long step from demonstration of the principle to the building of a true nuclear fusion power station.

WAS INDIA AN ISLAND?

Some Indian scientists advance a hypothesis that 50 million years ago about half of the present territory of India was an island lying in the zone of the Equator. Later on drifting north the island joined the mainland. The partition line, as scientists believe, passed through the latitude of Nagpur.

They base their conclusions on the results of studies taking place over the last decade, and the petrified remains of vegetation discovered in Central India. Many samples of petrified seeds, flowers and tree trunks, particularly palm trees, relate to varieties that are found on the coast. Another argument results from remains of petrified sea weed also found in the same area.



This "sun-boat" operates on solar energy. It was built by a Swiss auto mechanic, Max Schick, in his spare time, including the solar cells and the electric motor which proved to be very efficient. On dull days the boat runs on storage batteries and can cover 25 kilometres.

OF INTEREST

Across Europe on camels

Four young teachers from Libya undertook a long journey across the European continent. Interest was aroused since they chose camels as their means of transport. However the travellers reached Italy aboard a modern ship, and from here mounted their camels.

Boats solve crowded bus problems

It has become overcrowded in Abidjan, the capital of the Ivory Coast. Now about a quarter of the whole country's population

This has resulted in jams lasting for several hours occurring in the streets, and municipal buses are unable to carry all of those relying upon this service. The transport department solved this situation by introducing a service of passenger boats. The small boats cruise along the lagoon, on the shores of which Abidjan is situated, carrying about 100,000 people per month. The authorities are planning to increase the number of these boats.

Potato money

The inhabitants of the Solomon Islands, the Pacific, pay their doctors with potatoes. There are 60 scholars, theologians and philosophers testifying as witnesses to answer the question concerning mankind's origins: Adam and Eve, or the ape. The trial has been initiated by the American Civil Liberties Union, whose members protest against the new school curriculum under which the biblical creation

FROM the SOVIET PRESS

PLANS TO INVADE EL SALVADOR

The United States has violated the UN General Assembly's resolution on El Salvador which has just been adopted. The resolution calls upon all the states to refrain from interference into internal affairs of that country and stop delivering arms and rendering any other military support to El Salvador, writes PRAVDA.

Speaking at a Senate Subcommittee, US Undersecretary of Defense Fred Ikle said that the Pentagon intended to start training more than 500 Salvadoran officers as of next January and to train a whole battalion for special operations. "The training" will take place at the military Fort-Brugg centre, Northern Carolina, and also in Fort-Rentz, located in the zone of the Panama Canal.

Fred Ikle said that the Joint Chiefs of Staff was drawing up plans of military intervention to allegedly "oppose designs against El Salvador on the part of Cuba and Nicaragua".

How could Washington heed the opinion of the international community when it is necessary to hurriedly rescue the anti-people's pro-American regime, the newspaper writes ironically.

HAIG ON POLAND

TASS reports that following Reagan's announcement of economic pressure measures against Poland, State Secretary Alexander Haig made a televised statement concerning the situation in Poland and Soviet-American relations. In the light of Reagan's address, Haig overtly declared the USA had enough leverage on Poland to make it refrain from, as he called it, any radical moves against the "Solidarity" extremists.

In the process Haig deliberately ignored the fact that in taking measures to protect legality and restore law and order in Poland, its government has been acting within the constitution and the existing law, whereas the USA is crudely interfering in Poland's internal affairs, regardless of the generally accepted norms in international law.

Haig's statement and those by other American officials makes it increasingly clear exactly who was clinging on the "Solidarity" extremists and fascist-type organizations like the so-called "confederation of independent Poland" to anti-government and anti-socialist moves.

ZIMBABWE THREATENED BY CONSPIRACY

The Independent African Zimbabwe, built from the ruins of racist Rhodesia, is currently the target of unceasing provocations by the Republic of South Africa, writes Sergei Kuzin in SOVIETSKAYA ROSSIYA. Only recently Salisbury announced that former premier L. Smith and his closest supporters were plotting to bring about a return of white Rhodesia, aimed against the legitimate government of the Patriotic Front and receiving the support of the African majority in the country.

A preliminary investigation of operations by South African special services against Zimbabwe disclosed that Pretoria had devised a comprehensive plan to sabotage Zimbabwe's economic and political infrastructures. South African agents took part in blowing up two railway bridges in Mozambique, aimed at disrupting Zimbabwe's transport links with the independent African countries, thus making it dependent on South African transport communications.

In Transvaal, some 8,000 criminals from former Mozambique's "support units" are kept handy in total secrecy, while crack forces of fugitive white Rhodesian settlers are being collected.

SECRET ACTION COMES TO LIGHT

Washington and its collaborators in assassinations in Afghanistan, done with the hands of local rebels, do not seem to be planning to stop the dirty business, writes observer Vitya Kobyshev in LITERATURNAYA GAZETA.

The observer comments on the "Los Angeles Times" interview by former Afghan Vice-Premier Abdul Baki Khalil, who returned home after living seven years in the United States.

Abdul Baki Khalil said officials in Washington did not care about the Afghan people. All their interest is to keep up a military conflict in Afghanistan, no matter how long it may last, and to wage an undeclared war on Afghanistan, even if it goes on to the last Afghan.

The observer asks if after this statement those in Washington will continue to shed tears about the "grievous fate" of the Afghan people? Will they shed tears by way of propaganda and engage in murder through special services at the same time? The discrepancy has become too striking.

VIEWPOINT

A year of peace versus the nuclear threat

The year 1981 commenced with these main proclamations regarding world affairs: there are things more important than peace and the defence of peace is the overriding goal of today. The first was put into circulation by Alexander Haig, while the second was pronounced by Leonid Brezhnev at the 26th CPSU Congress, as he formulated the Soviet policy for the next five-year term.

These verily divergent concepts determined in large measure the competition between two trends in world politics. As though wishing to emphasize it wasn't business, the American administration released an all-time record five-year military budget amounting to 1,300 million dollars, with over reliance on increasing its military superiority motivated through the excuse of the "Soviet threat".

It was ready for dialogue in any form, believing that the search for means to avert a nuclear catastrophe was of critical importance for the international community.

Washington tried with greater vehemence to spread its dogma throughout the world community, insisting that all international problems should be viewed in the light of East-West confrontation and that anyone hoping for US assistance must produce evidence of its "strategic agreement" with America. All those unwilling to follow this line automatically will be branded as advocates of "international terrorism", which is currently Washington's target for any movement towards national liberation.

This precept was bound to exert negative influence on the world situation in general, and also in regard to regional developments. There was a sharp escalation of tension in Central America, with El Salvador selected as the main testing ground for American strength in line with the fight against the "international terrorism" doctrine, also

Spartak BEGLOV



Turning a blind eye to the underlying causes of such a situation, including the people's wish to shake off the yoke of reactionary juntas and the heavy burden of backwardness and social inequality, the US administration chose Cuba, Nicaragua and other revolutionary democratic regimes for its scapegoats seeking to harass them with its shows of strength and threats of economic blockade.

The other American doctrine, that of "strategic agreement", showed unreserved American preference for reactionary dictatorial regimes and governments over ready to undertake US military bidding. This only deepened the conflict areas and further stalemated solution to the Middle East problem. Israel, for one, has been increasingly flaunting, within the Camp David accord, the impunity of its successive acts of arbitrariness and aggression against the Arabs as seen in the bombing of the Iraqi nuclear centre and the annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights. More American arms are being shipped to Pakistan, there have

racist South African Republic recently committed fresh aggressive encroachments against the independent states in the south of Africa.

The increasing US nuclear weapons scramble was endorsed by doctrines on the "possibility" and "acceptability" of the so-called limited nuclear warfare. That is precisely where the main threat to world peace emanates from, and thus the critical objective is to protect mankind from the consequences of this unprecedented nuclear blackmail. The first to react to this was the Europeans' common sense and defensive instincts, since the Pentagon planned to use the continent as a testing ground. Hence there followed the unprecedented scale of the mass protest movements in Europe against the rampant arms race and the nuclear war threat.

Against this backdrop, the Soviet peace initiatives strikingly show their constructive nature. The Soviet doctrine rejecting the very idea of a nuclear attack as a criminal and suicidal one was further elaborated by Leonid Brezhnev during his FRG visit, in the form of specific proposals on vitally important first steps to curb the nuclear arms race. Europe should be the first to start cutting back on nuclear weapons and treating it altogether from both medium-range and tactical nuclear weapons in the long term.

To avoid confrontation, we must relax tension, abandon this senseless arms race, and revert to normal relations among na-

Round the Soviet Union

● "ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TECHNOLOGY" IS THE TITLE OF AN EXHIBITION, WHICH OPENED IN VILNIUS, capital of Lithuania. Its exhibits display the implementation of a comprehensive environmental protection programme for the republic.

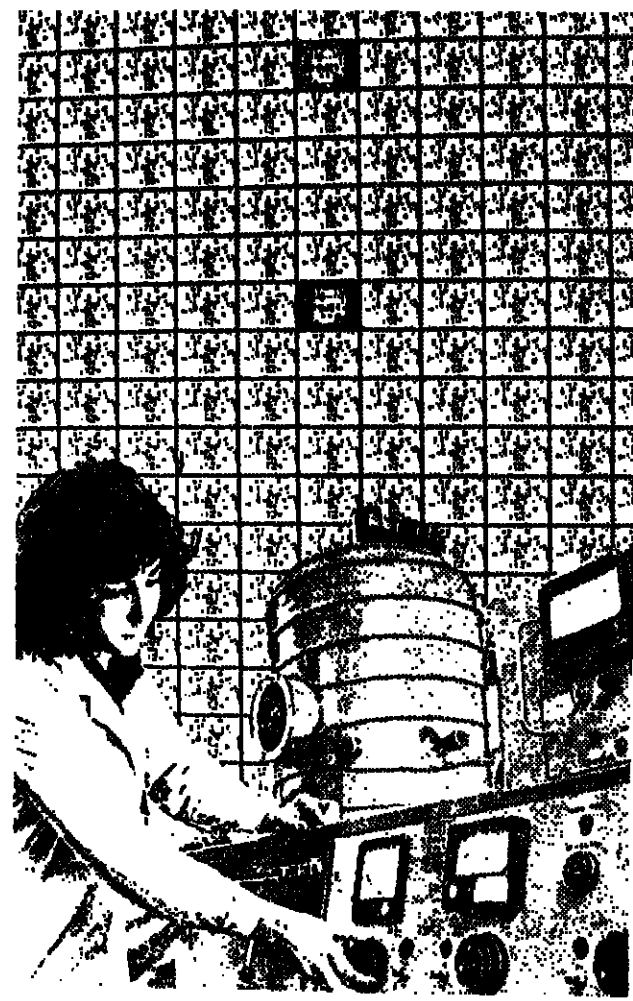
● THE WINTER MAIL "NAVIGATION" HAS OPENED ON THE AMUR RIVER, IN THE FAR EAST. Postmen left Komsomolsk-on-Amur for their maiden trips on aero-sledges to the settlements of wood-cutters, to the meteorological stations in the tundra, and to the camps of geologists and fishermen.

● MOSCOW RIVER TRANSPORT WORKERS HAVE COMPLETED THEIR WINTER NAVIGATION PROGRAMME. Barges loaded with fuel for heat and power plants were the first to come to the capital. The Moscow River is not yet ice-bound and motor ships cruise without the help of icebreakers. But the crews of these powerful ships are ready to cut the ice at the first signal.

● ELECTRIC ENERGY HAS BEEN SUPPLIED TO THE ALMOST INACCESSIBLE DISTRICT OF THE GISSAR MOUNTAINS ALONG THE KHAZARDAG-DIBADAM POWER TRANSMISSION LINE-110. The 40 km line helped switch dozens of Alpine villages to the single power grid of Central Asia. In this five-year period (1981-1985) it is planned to develop rapid power communications in the South of Uzbekistan: the total length of the new high-voltage power transmission lines will reach 250 km, a large increase from the 1.6 km of the previous five-year plan period.

● THE FIRST HOLIDAY-MAKERS HAVE ARRIVED AT A NEW REST HOME SITUATED ON THE BANKS OF LAKE IS-SYK-KUL IN KIRGHIZIA. The lake area is described as a natural resort lying at a height of 1,600 metres above sea level, and fed by water from glaciers. The lake valley is protected from excessive heat from the south and cold from the north by mountain ridges, creating a mild sea-side climate. Hydrogeologists have discovered in this area 16 types of mineral and thermal waters.

SEMICONDUCTORS HOLD THE ANSWER



No other industry in this country has developed so rapidly as the semiconductor industry. Indeed, semiconductors are responsible for many spectacular accomplishments both on earth and in space, making it possible to decrease the size and weight of electronic and radio gadgetry.

Semiconductor devices are essential for cosmonauts, miners, mathematicians and doctors. The USSR contains a highly established semiconductor industry producing millions of various devices such as transistors, diodes, rectifiers, thermoelectric units converting heat into electric power, etc.

This photograph of chemical engineer Nailiya Akhmedova was taken at the Institute of Non-Organic and Physical Chemistry at the Academy of Sciences of the Azerbaijan SSR. The institute is working on thin glass films used to protect semiconductor devices.

GAS PRODUCTION ON THE SHELF OF THE SEA OF AZOV

The commercial production of gas has started at the Strelokovo deposit, on the shelf of the Sea of Azov. Four production wells drilled from a platform installed at a depth of eight metres produce 300,000 cubic metres of gas daily.

The deposit contains three producing beds, and the gas is extracted from a depth of 100 metres. New drilling platforms

will be installed here in the near future.

Six gas deposits have already been discovered in the Sea of Azov. Apart from the Strelokovo deposit, the development of the Besug gas field has also started, while other deposits of the fuel are in the exploration stage.

Soviet geophysicists have developed new methods for prospecting and for the accumulation of hydrocarbons in the so-called non-structural traps. The exploration of the first such area recommended by specialists will commence in the Sea of Azov next year. Should the venture prove successful, it will find wide application in prospecting for fuel not only at sea but on land.

ENERGY FROM SMALL RIVERS

There is no district in our country which can be compared with Kamchatka as it excels all other territories in the potential power resources of small rivers. Scientists from the Far Eastern Centre of the USSR Academy of Sciences have calculated that their potential power reaches 20 million kilowatts.

Specialists substantiated the economic advantages of hydropower stations on small rivers, compared with stations which run on fossil fuels and geothermal energy.

The most of rivers in the land of mountains and volcanoes is the high stability of the water flow.

Not to prevent valuable salmon fishes from spawning, scientists suggest to build a dam in the upper reaches of rivers abounding in rapids and waterfalls where there is low fish.

DEEP-WATER OIL PRODUCTION

The deepest underwater oil deposit found in the Caspian Sea off Buzla Island 100 km south of Baku will be expanded.

Geologists were prompted to increase prospecting and to initiate developments for a new well, as it would extend the deposit area. The well was drilled in the north-eastern area of the sea and confirmed the most daring conjectures of the column, producing 700,000 cubic metres of gas and 200 tonnes of gas condensate daily.

Using powerful Soviet-made turbo drills and diamond bits, the workers had to exert a great amount of effort to extinguish gas blowouts in the well, which presented the threat of fires halting the influx of sea waters. The designed depth of 6,055 metres was successfully reached.

The average depth of all other 15 wells off Buzla Island also exceeds 6,000 metres. Now another ten wells are being drilled in this promising region. Some of them are to reach a still deeper level than those already exploited.

A 84 kilometre-long pipeline, whose diameter of 426 mm is the largest in the USSR, has been built to link the oil deposit with the mainland, therefore meeting the expected expansion in production.

Places to visit



The town of Frunze, which the Kirghiz tenderly call a "sunny home", recently celebrated its centennial. Once it was a big village called Pishpek, bearing no resemblance whatever to the present Kirghiz capital. In 1925 it was named after well-known Soviet army commander Mikhail Frunze who was born there. The town was developing at an amazingly rapid pace. The 35 reference books said the town had only three power stations with an aggregate capacity of 2,221 kW, and was built up predominantly with one-storey buildings to guard against frequent earthquakes. The industry comprised only several tanning factories, a tannery, and a cloth factory.

Today Frunze is a big industrial, scientific and cultural centre, boasting the Academy of Sciences of the Kirghiz SSR, a university, publishing houses, theatres, museums, a film studio, high-rise earthquake-proof buildings, and modern architectural ensembles. There is a lot of greenery and flowers in that peculiar Central Asian city drawing visitors from many countries.

The Drama Theatre.

A new building in the capital.

FRUNZE



Railway in Yakutia

Though the construction of the Baikal-Amur Railway (BAM) is not yet been completed, Soviet specialists already plan another 1,000 km long railway to connect Bann with Yakutsk, the capital of the Yakut Autonomous Republic.

Economists have estimated that the cost of the new railway will be about 1,500 million roubles, but this expenditure will be recovered in six years of exploitation. Ten well appointed settlements will be established along the line forming strong points for the development of the territory adjacent to the railway.

The northern extension of the BAM is linked with plans for setting up large steel mills supplied with coal from the south Yakut deposits and the iron ore from the area near Aldansk. Estimated reserves run into 21-25,000 million tonnes, and more than half of them can be produced by opencast methods.

A long-term development of the entire south Yakut territorial production complex will be connected with this steel complex.

Yakutia, where the severest frosts in the northern hemisphere are registered, contains deposits of diamonds, gold, tin, antimony, gas, coal, apatites and many other minerals. Deposits often lie beneath a thick layer of permafrost. This does not prevent Soviet specialists from planning the development of more regions in Yakutia. This will be stimulated by the railway stretching from BAM to the North and to Yakutsk.

A COSSACK MUSEUM IN THE FAR EAST

The Albazino village, the oldest in the Amur Region, is at present constructing a memorial architectural complex. About 300 years ago this former Cossack stockade formed the administrative centre for the easternmost province in Russia. Using this area as their base the Russians settled the middle and lower reaches of the Amur River, and economic and cultural contacts were established with the natives of the Amur Region.

The Albazino villagers revere

OF INTEREST

A NEW INSTRUMENT INVENTED

Felixon is an unusual musical instrument played for the first time at a concert performed in the Glinka Small Hall at the Leningrad Philharmonic Society.

Named after its inventor — the maker and restorer of musical instruments Felix Ravdonik of Leningrad — it has extremely unusual notes. The instrument consists of a strip of brass suspended from a special stand, this strip being both the light string that creates the sound and the sounding board. The spectrum of sounds in the instrument's range reaches close to the upper threshold of hearing for the human ear.

VIEWPOINT

How Soviet people have benefited in the first year of the 11th five-year plan
Alexander DEDUL

The preliminary economic results of the first year of the 11th five-year plan of 1981-1985 show that its social programme will be fulfilled and, in some respects, it will exceed the quota. This is despite the fact that this year has not been the best for the economy. Addressing the November session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, the Chairman of the USSR State Planning Committee, Nikolai Baibakov, noted that the shortcomings in the work of a number of industries, associations and enterprises are partly due to the difficulties in agriculture caused by the hindering weather conditions.

Nevertheless, this adverse economic situation has not altered the planned course towards raising the living standards, as the real incomes of the population have risen by 3.6 per cent instead of the planned 2.9 per cent. The social consumption funds will also increase by 5,000 million roubles to 122,000 million against 121,500 million envisaged by the plan.

We have also fulfilled the programme for centralised increases in wages and salaries. In addition to such planned measures as payments increases for seniority in construction and railway, increments to the wages and salaries in new areas required with the Extreme North in their harsh climate and weather, and additional pay to doctors in rural areas, and to river boatmen for night work, the wages of workers in the coal industry will increase by an average of 25 per cent.

The programme for state grants to families with children and higher pensions is being implemented. Over 50 million citizens will benefit from additional payments and discounts.

Incomes are being increased while taxation remains unchanged as do the prices of basic commodities, including goods in daily demand.

Combined with stable tax rates and price index, the growth of the monetary incomes of the population have appreciably changed demand. Particularly great is the demand for protein-rich foodstuffs, such as meat, milk, cheese, butter. This situation has been aggravated by the bad year in agriculture, as a result we have failed to raise the resources of protein foods to the planned level. However, government is presently taking radical steps in order to eliminate the gap between demand and supply and the devising of a new food programme is nearly completed.

When this programme has been put into effect it will unite the efforts of all the branches immediately concerned with the supply of food to the population. For this purpose, the state has invested greater amounts than in the previous five years.

The housing programme has been fulfilled, with over two million flats and one-family cottages built this year enabling over ten million Soviet citizens to improve their housing conditions. Investments for these purposes have this year reached 18,700 roubles.

To a much greater extent than before, construction of schools, kindergartens, creches, hospitals, outpatient clinics, shops, cultural and sporting establishments, sports complexes, sanatoria, sanatoriums, resorts and tourist facilities, are all under way. Money has been spent on making towns and villages comfortable to inhabit and on the protection of the environment.

FROM THE SOVIET PRESS

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE 80s

The USSR State Committee on Science and Technology, the USSR State Planning Committee and the USSR Academy of Sciences have devised long-term scientific and technical programmes which incorporate 38 comprehensive purpose-oriented programmes and 122 programmes to solve major problems in science and technology, writes the magazine VOYEVOSTIY I STORII KPSS. The eventual goal is a large-scale implementation of the achievements in science and technology in mass production, which will give considerable economic effect in the current five-year plan period. One of these programmes envisages devising and mastery of technological processes and systems for mining machines which will make it possible to create pits in the Kansk-Achinsk (Western Siberia) and other coal fields with an output three times larger than today. A commercial production is envisaged of machines to mechanise manual labour, with new machines expected to halve the work intensity and release more than two million workers for other more skilled jobs by the end of the current five-year plan period. At the moment, more than seven million people are doing manual jobs in all branches of industry. The implementation of these programmes will save 28 thousand million roubles by the end of the five-year plan period, and 60 thousand million by 1990.

OUTER INTELLIGENCE IS DOUBTFUL

An all-Union symposium on the search for extraterrestrial intelligence has been held in Tallinn. The newspaper SOVIETSKAYA KULTURA has printed articles written by the scientists who took part in the

discussion, including a report by the Corresponding Member of the USSR Academy of Sciences, Iosif Shklovsky.

An Oriental proverb says, if you are waiting for your friend, do not take your heartbeats for the thumping of his horse's hoofs. I think that this exactly sums up the situation regarding extraterrestrial intelligence, stated Iosif Shklovsky. The experiments of the past few decades have raised serious doubts and I believe that the possibility of other intelligence in the universe is remote since it requires too many conditions to be fulfilled. Even if we suppose an intelligence has appeared, developed and reached a high level somewhere in our or a neighbouring galaxy, it could not have remained unobserved. An important argument against inhabited worlds is the silence of outer space. If there was a highly-developed civilisation out there, it would have found a way of letting us know of its presence.

RESTORATION OF 'INDUSTRIAL' DESERTS

The USSR's first attempt to revive industrial deserts was made in Dnabas early in the 50s. Local inhabitants began to plant old mine dumps with trees and shrubs, writes the journal KHIMIYA I ZHIZN. It seemed to be a simple thing to do, however, the plants did not acclimatise. The next attempt was made by the Botanical Garden of the USSR Academy of Sciences and the Urals State University. They began planting greenery on the heaps of burned ash that accumulated near the thermal power stations in the Urals. This attempt proved more successful and laid the foundations for future development in the field of reclamation: the method of reviving soil fertility disturbed through the extraction of mineral resources.

It has been calculated that in the next decade dumps and quarries in the mining industry will annually take over 30,000-35,000 hectares of land, mainly in the districts where farming conditions are most favourable. In 1950-1975 about 200,000 hectares of land were recovered in the country, twice as much as from the past five-year period. Beginning from 1976, after a special resolution of the USSR Council of Ministers, the reclamation of lands was officially included into Soviet national economic plans. Now plants will flourish in what were previously industrial deserts.

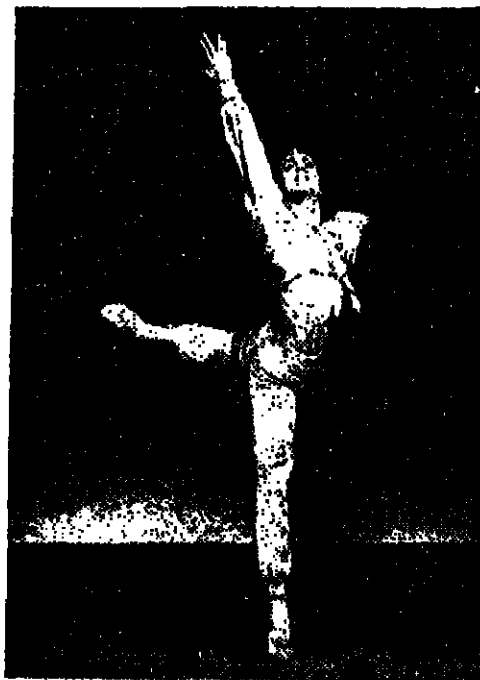
THE NOVEL: A WIDE PANORAMA OF REALITY

It seemed to critics that a novel, or to be more general, the prose of the turn of the 70s was insufficiently comprehensive. It only touched the surface of fundamental demands in life, writes critic Sergei Chuprin in LITERATURNAYA GAZETA. A novel was expected to be a wide-scale panorama of modern life, this is what was achieved in the 70s. The writer takes his reality from the world around him, from this modern life which is displayed. An important feature of modern literature is that it is formed like a practical ideal, or a direct goal, the principles found in the traditions of Pushkin and raised by Dostoyevsky.

A modern novel is created and read in a broad context, both as the national prose of our country, and as part of the world's literary process. That's why while speaking about new prose we also take into consideration the advancement of, say, the Latin American novel, and the works by Thomas Mann, William Faulkner and other leading writers of the 20th century.

Theatre, Cinema and TV Stars

Stanislav ISAYEV



In Andrei Petrov's ballet, "The Creation of the World", Stanislav Isayev, soloist of the Moscow Classical Ballet company, dances the part of Adam. The first man on earth, created from clay, experiments with his arms and legs trying to determine their purpose. His stumbling gait turns to a walk and then to a dance masterly executed by Isayev through his performance.

After graduating from the Perm Choreography School in 1974 he was invited to join the Moscow Classical Ballet, led by Natalya Kasatkina and Vladimir Vasilyov. He was the first in the

company to win top awards, being the winner of the nationwide ballet competition and at the Varna International contest.

By this time he already had gained the experience of dancing in concerts and plays, and thus was entrusted with leading parts. He made a sensation dancing Adam in "The Creation of the World", a ballet, based on both joyful and philosophical drawings by Jean Effel, which greatly appealed to performers and audiences alike by its humanistic interest. Adam becomes Man only after realizing why he has been brought into the world. In fact Isayev conceives the dance as a hymn to the glory of Man and Love. Starting out with awkward movements, which are obviously ironic, Isayev finally dances a sublimely perfect adagio with Eva.

French ballet-master Pierre Lacotte, who was once invited to produce the ballet "Nathalie", appeared quite correct in his choice of Isayev as Oswald, who accurately projected the style and spirit of the ballet. His count is strikingly dazzling and elegant and brings to life the pictures seen on old engravings. Audiences never get bored when, in the second act, Isayev stunningly performs the most incredible pas while twirling his walking stick. The amorous Oswald possesses a spirit character helping him to overcome social barriers and marry a girl from the lower classes. Significantly, this spirituality is common to all Isayev's characters.

His latest part is that of Romeo in the ballet "Romeo and Juliet" (score by Sergei Prokofiev), which the company mounted during its two-month guest performances in Brazil and Peru recently. This is his first tragic role indicative of his creative maturity. It appears that both physically and spiritually he amazingly fits the requirements of that particular music, during this performance music and dancing are born before one's eyes.

Yevgeny GLOVANI

Photo by Yuri Barykin

MELODIA'S PRESENTS

"A Happy New Year!" is an LP produced by the Melodia recording company containing popular songs and rhythms from major Soviet performers, including Georgi Garayanyan's orchestra, Alla Pugacheva, Lyudmila Zykina and Boris Shtokolov.

New Year songs were added by popular foreign performers. "Blizzard Blows Along the Street" is an old Russian romance recorded for Melodia by the Swedish singer Nicolai

Gedda. The French orchestra, Caravelli, performs a fantasy based on Raimonds Pauls' song, "The Love Has Come".

Other Melodia's releases are songs by Vladimir Migulya and Vyacheslav Dobrynin, and Andrei Petrov's music to Eldar Ryazanov's film, "Put in a Word for the Poor Hussar". Yugoslav Bojan Kodric sings romances and songs to the lyrics of Sergei Yesenin, Konstantin Simonov, Robert Rozhdestvensky and Mikhail Matusovsky.

Film premiere

Thilisi recently premiered a colour feature film, "I Wish You Well, Buddy". The picture, brimming with humour, was filmed by actor-singer Vakhtang Kikabidze and Georgia film studios director Tamaz Gomeauri.

Kikabidze also played one of the leads, together with popular actor Georgi Kavtaradze, the two characters present friends who hold a life-long passion for their native Thilisi. The film contains music and songs performed by Kikabidze.

Jubilee party

Variety artist Arkady Raikin enjoys universal acclaim in this country because, apart from censoring evil and drawbacks, his humour invariably carries very optimistic messages. For him, laughter has never been a goal in itself. His philosophical statements skillfully combine causal satire with lyricism and poetic feeling, stressed many of his colleagues, friends and just viewers who got together in the Rossiya Hotel Concert Hall to mark Raikin's 70th birthday and 50 years of his artistic career. Raikin's Theatre of Miniatures mounted pieces from his new play, "His Majesty the Theatre".

Renowned Bolshoi ballerina Maya Plisetskaya congratulates Arkady Raikin.



NEW YEAR INTERVIEW

With New Year's eve only a few days away, it is customary for people to recall the events of the passing year, to make future plans, decide where to celebrate New Year.

Our correspondent Marianna Markova interviewed ballet master and leading soloist of the Bolshoi Theatre Vladimir Vasilyev who has the following to say:

In 1981, one of my kneecaps was operated on twice, but I

do not regret it since it removed an obstacle which lately hindered my performance, he said. I have pleasant memories of producing the rock opera "Juno and Avos" in the Leningrad Komsomol Theatre, which was a great pleasure since you can do wonders with young enthusiastic performers. I shall soon be producing a ballet film in Leningrad based on a Chekhov short story, my favourite writer, though I'm not sure which role I'll be dancing.

CINDERELLA'S BALL

Miracles worked only by magicians are performed by the circus artists engaged in the New Year fairy tale, "The Crystal-Glass Shoe", whose opening night performance took place in Leningrad.

The conjurers are able to turn Cinderella, in a twinkling of an eye, into a charming princess. The evil step-mother is played by famous clown Anatoly Marchevsky, who acts in the company of his pupils from

the "Hullo, Clown!" team. Other parts are played by acrobats, tight-rope walkers, gymnasts and tamers.

On the arena, the old fairy tale is brought into contact with the space age: as Father Frost and the Snow Maiden arrive in a space rocket. Leningrad's children are also treated to an exciting number, "Among the Lions", by tamer Boris Brikov.



A festive and exotic world awaits those who visit the exhibition of the famous Sri Lankan painter Jayalakhmi Satyendra held at the Exhibition Hall in Moscow (25 Gorky St); here over 30 pictures will be displayed. A popular folk singer in the past, she concentrates on the nature of her country and on portraiture works. Jayalakhmi Satyendra. "The Truth", "Her World".

WHAT'S ON?

December 29-January 4

THEATRES

Kremlin Palace of Congresses (Kremlin). 29—Borodin, "Prince Igor" (opera). 1—Petrov, "The Creation of the World" (ballet) performed by the Moscow Classical Ballet Ensemble.

Bolshoi Theatre (Sverdlov Sq). 29—Adam, "Ciselle" (ballet). 30—Khachatryan, "Spartacus" (ballet). 31 (mat) — Double-bill: Rimsky-Korsakov, "Mozart and Salieri"; Tchaikovsky, "Iolanthe" (opera); 31 (eve) — Tchaikovsky, "The Nutcracker" (ballet). 1 — Bizet, "Carmen" (opera).

Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theatre (17 Pushkinskaya St). 30 (mat), 1 (mat) — Morozov, "Doctor Doolittle" (ballet); 30 (eve) — Strauss, "Der Zigeunerbaron" (operetta). 31 (mat) — Tchaikovsky, "The Snow Maiden" (ballet); 31 (eve) — Tchaikovsky, "Iolanthe" (opera). 1 (eve) — Rossini, "The Barber of Seville" (opera).

Operetta Theatre (6 Pushkinskaya St). 29 (eve) — Milyutin, "Girls in a Flurry", 30 (mat)

and aft) — One-act ballets: Casagrande, "Pinochio's Adventures"; Khrennikov, "Children in Our Backyard"; 30 (eve) — Ilyin, "Comrade Lyubov". 31 (mat) — Gladkov, "Khottabych"; 31 (eve), 1 (mat) — Feltsman, "An Old Comedy"; 1 (eve) — Gorkhovskiy, "Quadrille".

FILMS

ABBA (Sweden, Australia). A musical depicting the popular pop group. Cinema: "Novorossiysk" (47/24 Chernyshevskogo St). Metro Kurskaya.

Will You Be My Husband (Mosfilm Studios). A comedy, featuring the cinema stars Yelena Proklova and Andrei Mironov. Cinema: "Udarnik" (2 Sarafimovicha St). Metro Biblioteka Imeni Lenina.

CONCERT HALLS

Central Concert Hall (1 Moskvoretskaya Embankment, at

BUSINESS

WEST GERMAN COOPERATION OFFERS ATTRACTIVE PROSPECTS

Leonid Brezhnev's visit to West Germany in November this year provided a new impetus to the promotion of economic relations between our states, said the well-known German economist, Harald Dietze, Editor-in-Chief of the Hamburg magazine "Welt-Wirtschaft". The "gas-pipes" contract, signed on the eve of the visit, presents a solid basis for the consistent development of mutually beneficial economic contacts.

Harald Dietze said that there is every reason to expect that goods exchanged between West Germany and the Soviet Union will attain a record level in the outgoing year. At present more than 1,300 West German firms maintain trade and economic contacts with the USSR. For many of them the Soviet market has become one of the most important.

Interest within West German business circles for the promo-

tion of cooperation with the Soviet Union is increasing year to year. This is, above all, facilitated by the prospects of long-term partnerships with the USSR, as well as the increasing offers for Soviet goods from West Germany.

The development of economic cooperation at a higher level, stressed H. Dietze, would undoubtedly benefit both countries, representing an act of goodwill and mutual understanding in the current complicated situation.

BENEFICIAL AGREEMENTS

The Soviet Union holds major trade agreements with Finland. The rapid development of mutually advantageous Soviet-Finnish cooperation has been practised since 1951, when long-term bilateral trade and economic relations were established in accordance with the first five-year plan agreements.

The volume of trade between the two countries will increase with each five-year period. In 1981-1985 the volume of trade expected between the two countries is estimated at 18,000-20,000 million roubles.

Under the protocol on mutual deliveries in 1982 the USSR and Finland are planning to greatly increase the delivery to Finland of Soviet machines, equipment, energy fuels, in return for exports to the USSR of Finnish industrial goods, agricultural products and consumer goods. Supplies to the USSR now make 20 per cent of Finnish exports. The volume of cooperation is making permanent headway, and this is also evident in the spheres of joint building constructions and production cooperation.

Interest in Soviet technology

An international exhibition, "Oil and Gas", has closed in the American city of Dallas (Texas). Licensintorg, of the USSR, has a wide display of Soviet oil and gas extraction, transportation and storage technology, which aroused great interest among American business people. The visitors' attention was attracted by the equipment for the development of oil and gas deposits in arctic environment.

The USSR participation in the exhibition convincingly showed the interest displayed by US businessmen in technical exchanges with our country.

In recent years Licensintorg concluded about 40 agreements for sales of Soviet technology to American firms intended for various applications.

Thus, Alcoa, the biggest US aluminium producer, acquired the patent rights for the Soviet methods of casting aluminium ingots in electromagnetic crystallizers. This is the third company following after Kaiser Aluminium and Reynolds Metals who have applied Soviet technology.

The Rex Nord company bought the process for crushing ores, and Air Products and Chemicals gained the licence for air equipment.

A new agreement was signed in December 1981, for the purchase of technology and equipment for automatic detonation coating (ADC). The ADC technology is said to be one of the most progressive in the world.

CANNED FISH FROM YEMEN

Two years have passed since the canned fish factory opened in Mukalla, Hadhramaut Province, in South Yemen.

Built with Soviet technical assistance this complex of production shops and technical sections, in which Soviet fish processing equipment is installed now produces 38,000 tins of preserved fish per day.

The director of the plant, Saleh Said al-Garab said that during the whole period of its operation the plant has already produced 4.6 million tins, and there is every ground to believe that this figure will increase in the future. The director graduated from the Astra-

khan Technical Institute of Fishing Industry.

Anis Hasan Yahya, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Fish Resources of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, greatly appreciated the work of Soviet specialists, who participated in the construction of the enterprise and helped operate it. He pointed out that this first industrial enterprise built in the province in the years of independence made a major contribution to the development of the national economy of Democratic Yemen. The plant output will meet not only the internal requirements of the republic, but also will help create export resources, stressed the ministry.

ANOTHER REFINERY COMPLETED FOR INDIA

The oil refinery in Mathura, India, constructed with Soviet assistance is ready for production.

This is a modern, highly-automatized refinery equipped with the latest machinery. It will serve as a basis to build several plants for the production of artificial fertilizers, and will create a major centre for the Indian oil industry. The refinery will supply

the northern districts of the country with oil by-products and will supply thousands of additional jobs.

The Mathura plant is the third oil refinery in India being built with Soviet technical and economic assistance. Two others, in Barauni and Koyali, are increasing their production capacity yearly.

SPORTS

VOLLEYBALL

Central Army Club. All-Purpose Sports Gym (39 Leningradsky Prospekt). 29, 30 — USSR women's championship. Top-league teams. 4 p.m., 6.45 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. (both days).

Six leading teams from the four constituent republics are taking part. But only three of them will vie for the gold medals.

RACING

Hippodrome (22 Bogoyeva St). 30, 1 — Racing and trotting. On 30, at 6 p.m., on 1, at 1 p.m.

On January 1, traditional New Year's prizes will be contested.

WEATHER

December 29-January 4

Moscow, city and region, December 29 and 30, slight frost, temperature minus 3°-minus 6°C at night and minus 1°-minus 6°C during the day, later on temperature will drop to minus 10°-minus 15°C at night and to minus 7°-minus 10°C during the day. Snow at times. Wind S to W.



AEROFLOT INVITES YOU

TO TAKE A THRILLING TRIP TO MOSCOW FOR THE "RUSSIAN WINTER" ART FESTIVAL WHICH IS HELD EVERY YEAR FROM DECEMBER 25 TO JANUARY 5.

OUR THEATRES AND CONCERT HALLS WILL BE AT YOUR DISPOSAL. YOU WILL SEE PERFORMANCES BY LEADING SOVIET ARTISTS OF THE OPERA AND BALLET, BY VARIETY, SONG AND DANCE GROUPS FROM VARIOUS SOVIET REPUBLICS. YOU WILL ALSO VISIT THE CIRCUS.

FOR DETAILED INFORMATION APPLY TO ANY AEROFLOT OR INTOURIST AGENCY.

FLY AEROFLOT TO THE "RUSSIAN WINTER" ART FESTIVAL



АЭРОФЛОТ Soviet Airlines

AUSTRIAN SHIPBUILDING FLOURISHES

Another dry-cargo ship was added to the fleet of Soviet self-propelled dry-cargo tug-boats, which have for years cruised up and down the Danube. A ceremony took place in the Austrian Linz-Korneuburg shipyards and the Soviet flag was raised on the new ship "Mekhanik Sushkov".

It has been fitted out with the most up-to-date equipment, part of which was designed in the USSR, and carries about 2,000 tonnes of cargo. This ship also takes containers.

Ships of this class have been built jointly by Soviet and Austrian specialists according to the latest requirements with due account for the specifications es-

sential for navigation along Soviet rivers. Specialists of both countries have been cooperating for more than 30 years and during this period more than 110 ships were built on Soviet orders at the Korneuburg shipyards.

K. Wild, its director-general pointed out, that such contracts with the Soviet Union provided jobs for hundreds of Austrian workers and avoided the crisis facing Western ship-building industries.

Until 1984 our enterprise is ensured with Soviet orders and its production capacities have been fully loaded, said the director-general.

ECONOMIC TRANSPORT MEANS

The Avia motor works of Prague have completed their fulfilment of Soviet orders for 1981. It delivered to the USSR about 730 special trucks for transporting foodstuffs and manufactured goods.

Czechoslovak Avia vehicles

were supplied to the Soviet Union for the first time this year. They are especially distinguished for the low maintenance cost. Driving in a city even with frequent stops these trucks consume only 13-15 litres of diesel fuel every 100 kilometres.

Philately

Stamps depicting early transportation

The USSR Ministry of Communications has issued a stamp series tracing the development of Moscow's public transportation. The six stamps depict trans-

portation means common to the 19th and early 20th centuries, for instance, horse-drawn carriages, Rago taxicabs of the 1920s, and the old Moscow tram.

The stamps were designed by Valery Karasyov and Nikolai Litvinov.

